GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2326
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
BIMSTEC
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
(a) whether the Government considers to expedite the cooperation among members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in order to share the economic and political clout in the south east Asia;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government considers to set up a financial body under BIMSTEC in order to give more importance to the common infrastructure like port, road, railway connectivity among BIMSTEC countries and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Yes.
(b) to (d) BIMSTEC Leaders met in Goa on 16th October, 2016 and resolved to rejuvenate the grouping. An Outcome Document was issued after this meeting, which expresses the common will and desire of the member countries to expedite cooperation in the identified sectors within BIMSTEC. The sector of Transport and Communication, which aims to promote all round multi-modal connectivity, is an area of the highest priority within BIMSTEC, and all appropriate sources of public and private finance are explored to fund connectivity projects.